

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: March 11, 2021 8:00 AM

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COMMENTS FOR:

The Committee will hear invited testimony from the PUC to discuss the most recent emergency message from the Governor.

Additionally, the Committee will consider and hear public testimony on the following bills:

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Nadja Granzotti

self/retired

Austin, TX

As much as I like Gov Abbott HB3 gives way too many powers to the Governor - all that could bite all of us down the road. It's way too tyrannical- opens doors to too many unsavory possibilities. Think very hard before approving such vile and intrusive legislation. . . .  
thank you.

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Gordon Kayser, Tarrant County Red Cross Shelter Coordinator

Self. Retired UPS . Volunteer Sheltering ARC

Fort Worth, TX

This is not the 1st time we have had extended cold here. It is happening more often also. ERCOT, Oncor, and the electric providers knew this would happen and refused to be prepared for it. Other states farther north are prepared. Our providers spent their money on their inflated salaries. They did not do rolling blackouts. They just cut people's power off for days. They do not care that people lived in 40 degree houses for days and people died. You must make them fix this so it never happens again. And do it on their dime not the customers. We should not have to pay for their greed and neglect. I am watching how my elected officials handle this. Your response will show me who you really work for. I vote. Always. Making them eat the cost of winterizing may show them Texans won't stand for what happened.

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Jill Berkana

self

Ft. Davis, TX

I do not consent to this bill. This is basically a type of enabling act, even after it's modifications. The legislature needs to do its job and resume being a lawmaking body. If you give power to an executive in an emergency, you just guaranteed an emergency will happen and continue.

Drop the bill. I do not consent. This is unlawful and unconstitutional.

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Trudy S. Williams, Mrs

Texas citizen

Big Sandy, TX

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The whole thing trampled on our freedom of speech and all our freedom's. I resented being treated like I didn't have enough sense to take care of my own health. I am very health-conscious and know that it's ridiculous to try to tell people that they can get a virus when they're healthy and that the healthy were treated exactly the same as the very sick people. There was no logic or sound reasoning behind the lockdowns and the stupid mask mandate??It was all about the media 24 seven putting fear into the American public especially people that aren't educated. Never in the history of the world have we locked down perfectly healthy people in fear of a virus??

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Stefani Reinold, Dr.

self

Austin, TX

To uphold the Texas constitution, you MUST say no to HB 3. This is unconstitutional and disenfranchises the personal liberties of all citizens of Texas. Regardless of a pandemic, the governor should never have this much power.

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Ben Brown

Self- Retired

Fairview, TX

The problems of the market place reflects the position of ERCOT that allows the market to rely on un-reliable wind and solar generating facilities during the winter peak. The two things that saved the grid during the recent winter event were the decision by ERCOT to shed electric customer load to match available generating supplies and the thermal generating units that remained in service. The ERCOT market does not recognize and reward reliable thermal generating facilities to be in service during peak periods. Unless this pricing mechanism is not recognized, Texans will face the same generating supply issues during the Summer peak of 2021.

Losing over 24,000 mw of wind generating facilities on peak was a significant contributing factor.

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Jim DeForest

Stellar Energy Systems LLC

Houston, TX

In light of the new focus on electricity reliability, I believe the focus on adding more power plants and the corresponding need for investing \$30 to \$90 billion in transmission infrastructure is exactly backwards.

I do understand the need to upgrade and expand our infrastructure, including winterization; I just think there is another obvious, logical and less costly option.

I believe the answer to grid sustainability can be partially accomplished by localization.

The first problem with the grid is demand vs supply.

Demand will only grow, and the grid cannot accommodate more supply from distant sources without costly expansion.

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The distance is the problem.

One answer is to localize the supply as much as possible and depend on the grid only for backup.

Local governments could utilize existing buildings, unused land, etc. to supply most, if not all of the government's electricity, via local solar installations.

If every city and county in Texas were solarized, it would have reduced the demand on the grid enough that the utilities could have kept up with 2-3 hour rolling blackouts.

The problem is that the Utility companies, with backing of state leadership, do not want to encourage that because demand equals revenue and because oil and gas interests are opposed to solar expansion. And we are, if nothing else, an oil & gas state.

What the utility companies really want is un fluctuating but increasing demand, so that both revenues grow and grid reliability is maintained.

However, after all is said and done, they are willing to forgo reliability to maintain revenue growth.

If my proposal were implemented it would mean a loss of revenue to the Utilities and the oil & gas industry.

It would also mean that the utilities would not be asking the State Legislature for rate increases every year to pay for more investment in infrastructure.

It would mean that energy costs for everyone would decrease, instead of increase.

Most government entities are members of the Harris-Galveston Area Council BUY PROGRAM which already has a workable solar agreement in place.

There is also funding available through Texas SECO which state entities can access with a no-money down process which pays for itself through energy savings over 10-12 years.

The only obstacle to implementing this option is lack of desire by utilities(and by extension, PUC, ERCOT and the Texas legislature) and ignorance of the option by municipalities/counties.

Jim DeForest  
Managing Director  
Stellar Energy Systems, LLC

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Erica Moss

Self

Irving, TX

Please consider that this is unconstitutional. Know that most if us completely oppose this bill. I am 100,000,000 % against this. This completely removes us of freedom. When someone starts to run the country based on "emeegenceys" there will be many more uncalled for incidences. Also the freedom to vaccinate or not should never EVER be a demand. I am appalled any of this is even being considered. Do not do this or you will see a revolt like there never has been. Do not be ignorant sheep.keep Texas

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free!

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Ware Wendell, Executive Director

Texas Watch

Austin, TX

Via electronic transfer

Chairman Paddie and Members of the Committee:

I lead Texas Watch, a non-partisan, non-profit that has advocated for the rights of working families for over twenty years. I write today to provide comments on HB 3 for your consideration.

In particular, I wish to focus our comments on Sec. 418.007 in the bill. Front-line workers have borne a great deal of the brunt of this unholy pandemic and have performed their duties heroically for a many, many months now. Some of these workers have done so without sufficient protective equipment or infection control measures on site. A number of people have lost their lives as a result.

We believe it is vitally important that essential workers receive essential protections. As a matter of public policy, all incentives should be aligned toward safety to protect life in our state. The "reasonable person" standard under traditional negligence law helps to align these incentives toward protection. We have well-established case law that can -- and should -- protect every business doing things the right way, taking reasonable steps to protect their workers and their customers. I commend those businesses and want to support them by ensuring a level competitive field for all of them. From our perspective, traditional negligence jurisprudence does exactly that.

We stand ready to help this committee with its work. Please call on us anytime as a resource. We thank you for your efforts and appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Respectfully,  
Ware Wendell  
Executive Director  
Texas Watch  
wwendell@texaswatch.org  
www.TexasWatch.org

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Lavonne Hernandez, Mrs.

self

Plano, TX

My family and friends demand that, for now and in the case of a future pandemic or type emergencies:

- 1) Nursing/long-term care communicate with families/guardians regarding positive Covid cases and under-staff ratios and allow families to visit and/or remove (even if temporarily) a family member without consequence.
- 2) Schools, work places, airlines, transportation, and all other organizations NOT require a Covid or other pandemic/new illness

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"vaccine"

- 3) General vaccine exemption affidavit forms be made available without a request process and with a blank line for the individual's name
- 4) Texas disallow disease or non-standard (currently scheduled) vaccine tracking on personal devices or non governmental/private apps or private business or transportation systems
- 5) Texas ban personal tech-tracking of any illness, vaccine, or health information.
- 6) Covid or other testing NOT be required but optional
- 6) Masks NOT be required for ANYONE when outdoors (especially for schools and sports)
- 7) Public and charter schools resume functioning OR allowing choice for in-person 5 days a week
- 8) Businesses be allowed to fully reopen
- 9) Churches be allowed to fully reopen
- 10) Necessary medical treatments such as urgent surgeries and cancer treatments resume as normal
- 11) We commit to making and using PPE, testing materials, masks, and other medical equipment that is made in the USA
- 12) Our southern border be secured, DHS update and release realtime numbers on the border, illegal immigrants be processed "in line" and sent back to their hometown

We stand with Texans for Vaccine Choice, Abolish Abortion Texas, and Traffick911. Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,  
Lavonne Hernandez

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